

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

In order for a user host to gain access to a public domain network, such as the Internet, users must first dial-in or otherwise make a connection with the SSG through a data-receiving interface (not shown in Fig. [[5.]] 4). As a threshold matter, an authorizer (not shown in Fig. [[5]] 4) within the LAC serves to authenticate the identity of the user, ensure authorization and ascertain the nature and scope of the public network services that it will provide.